

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.**

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An ergonomic microscope, which comprises a stand, a stand base that defines an external contour; a microscope carrier comprising a carrier body, ~~and a left and a right hand rest, and a hinge system with each rest defining a front edge,~~ wherein the left and the right hand rests are attached to the carrier body by means of said hinge system so as to pivot freely and independently of one another.
2. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the carrier body comprises an external contour that corresponds substantially to the external contour of the stand base of the microscope.
3. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the carrier body comprises a housing open toward the bottom.
4. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 3, wherein the housing of said carrier body comprises a surface with at least one depression embedded therein for receiving at least one foot on the stand base of the microscope.
5. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 4, wherein the depressions are configured as cutouts or holes for orienting the microscope on the microscope carrier.
6. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein a cutout for ventilation or supply is provided on the carrier body.

7. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein at least one opening for attaching the microscope is provided in the carrier body of the microscope carrier.
8. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the microscope carrier comprises a plurality of pivotable supports that make available at least a three-point support of the microscope carrier on a bench surface.
9. (Allowed) An ergonomic microscope, which comprises a microscope and a microscope carrier, said microscope comprising at least a stand, and a stand base that defines an external contour; said microscope carrier comprising a carrier body, a plurality of pivotal supports that make available at least a three-point support of said microscope carrier on a bench surface, and a left hand rest and a right hand rest attached to said carrier body so as to pivot freely and independently of one another, said pivotal supports comprising a first pivotal support, a second pivotal support and a third pivotable support, said first and second pivotal supports being actuatable independently of said third pivotable support.
10. (Allowed) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 9, wherein said carrier body of said microscope carrier comprises a carrier housing, the pivotal supports of said microscope carrier positioned in the carrier housing, open toward the bottom of the carrier body, said pivotal supports comprising an operating knob and a lever on the carrier housing, the first and second pivotal supports being pivotable by way of the operating knob, and the third support by way of the lever.
11. (Allowed) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 10, comprising a shaft connected to the operating knob; a bracket on the shaft and connecting bars, said bracket connected to said connecting bars, one of said connecting bars associated with the first support and one of said connecting bars associated with the second support through connecting points; wherein the connecting points between the bracket and the first and second supports are rotatable bearing pins.

12. (Currently Amended) An ergonomic microscope, which comprises a microscope carrier, a microscope stand positioned on said microscope carrier, said microscope carrier comprising a hinge system and a left hand rest and a right hand rest, each of said hand rests defining a front edge, said hand rests pivotally mounted to the microscope carrier by means of said hinge system for movement freely and independently of one another in such a way that regardless of the adjustment their front edges rest on a bench surface .
13. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 12, wherein the microscope stand defines a stand base with an external contour, the microscope carrier comprising a microscope carrier body with an external contour, wherein the external contour of the stand base corresponds substantially to the external contour of the microscope carrier body.
14. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 13, wherein the microscope carrier body comprises a housing open toward the bottom, said housing defining a surface comprising at least one depression for receiving at least one foot on the stand base of the microscope.
15. (Original) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 14, wherein the depressions are configured as cutouts or holes, and serve to orient the microscope on the microscope carrier.
16. (Previously Presented) The ergonomic microscope as defined in Claim 12, wherein the microscope carrier is equipped with a plurality of pivotable supports that make available at least a three-point support of the microscope carrier on a bench surface.
17. (Currently Amended) A microscope carrier, which comprises a microscope carrier body, a hinge system, and a left and a right hand rest attached to the microscope carrier body through said hinge system ~~body~~ so as to pivot freely and independently of one another.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The microscope carrier, which comprises a ~~as defined in Claim 17,~~  
~~wherein said microscope carrier body comprises~~ comprising a left and a right lateral  
cheekpiece and a hinge system, a ~~the~~ left and a ~~the~~ right hand rest ~~are~~ attached by means of  
said hinge system to said left and right lateral cheekpieces.
19. Cancelled
20. (Currently Amended) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 17, wherein the hand  
rests each comprise a front edge[[:]] , and the hand rests ~~being~~ are inclined toward the front  
edge.
21. (Previously Presented) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 17, wherein the  
microscope carrier is equipped with a plurality of pivotable supports that make available at  
least a three-point support of the microscope carrier on a bench surface.
22. (Allowed) A microscope carrier, which comprises a carrier body, a left hand rest and a  
right hand rest attached to said body, so as to pivot freely and independently of one  
another, a plurality of pivotal supports that make available at least a three point support of  
the microscope carrier on a bench surface, said pivotal supports comprising at least first,  
second and third pivotal supports wherein said first and, second pivotal supports are  
actuatable independently of said third pivotable support.
23. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The microscope carrier , which comprises a microscope carrier  
body, a left and right hand rest attached to said body so as to pivot freely and independently  
of one another, at least first, second and third pivotal supports making available at least a  
three-point support of the microscope carrier on a bench surface, wherein said first and  
second pivotal supports are actuatable independently of said third pivotal support, as  
defined in Claim 21, wherein the said pivotal supports ~~are provided~~ disposed in a  
microscope carrier housing open toward the bottom, said microscope carrier housing

comprising an operating knob and a lever, the first support and the second support being pivotable by way of the said operating knob, and the third support by way of the said lever.

24. (Previously Presented) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 23, comprising a shaft connected to the operating knob; a bracket on the shaft and connecting bars, said bracket connected to said connecting bars, one of said connecting bars associated with the first support and one of said connecting bars associated with the second support through connecting points; and the connecting points between the bracket and the first and second supports each embodied as rotatable bearing pins.
25. (Previously Presented) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 24, wherein the body comprises a front side on which the operating knob is provided; and the operating knob comprises a detent lug and detent flutes, said detent lug adapted to coact with said detent flutes on the front side of body in such a way that a discrete pivoting of the first and the second supports can be established.
26. (Previously Presented) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 23, wherein the lever comprises a plurality of detents for establishing at least one discrete pivoting of the third support.
27. (Previously Presented) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 17, wherein the microscope carrier body comprises an external contour that corresponds substantially to the external contour of a stand base of a microscope.
28. (Previously Presented) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 27, wherein the microscope carrier body comprises a housing open at the bottom.
29. (Previously Presented) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 28, wherein the housing comprises a surface having at least one depression adapted to receive at least one foot on the stand base of a microscope.

30. (Original) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 29, wherein the depressions are configured as cutouts or holes, and serve to orient the microscope on the microscope carrier.
31. (Previously Presented) The microscope carrier as defined in Claim 17, wherein at least one opening for attaching the microscope is provided in the microscope carrier body.